

MARINES REPULSED

Attacked Chinese Forces

Near Tien Tsin.

ADVISED FROM ADMIRAL KEMPFF

Expecting News of the Renewed Assault.

DELAY OF THE NINTH INFANTRY

War Department Officials Are Chagrined.

PLANS FOR REINFORCING

Acting Secretary Hackett this morning received a dispatch from Admiral Kempff, dated Chefoo, 23d, to the effect that American marines under Major Waller, together with 400 Russians, have had an engagement with the Chinese army near Tien Tsin. They could not break through the line. A force of 2,000, the admiral reports, is now ready to make another attempt.

Admiral Kempff's dispatch stating that an engagement had occurred near Tien Tsin and that another was about to occur sent a thrill of intense expectancy throughout official circles here. Other dispatches had been received, giving additional detail, but these were not made public, as they did not shed light upon the engagement. It was, however, more than the movement of forces. The official information gave no clue, however, as to the extent of any casualties which may have been suffered by the American forces engaged, and this was taken to indicate that the loss was little or nothing in the face of such an ill-equipped foe.

Major Waller, in command of the American marines who participated in the fight, is known here as a brave and efficient officer, whose coolness and daring were displayed during the engagement of July 27, 1900, when he commanded the marines on board the battleship Indiana. He is one of the students of the navy and the only one who has served as an advance agent before the United States Supreme Court. The marines referred to in the cable are 130 men taken by the Solace from Manila at the first call for reinforcements.

Loose Use of Language.

Admiral Kempff's specific statement that the engagement was "with the Chinese army" at first caused some solicitude among officials, for this was the first positive official statement that the imperial forces of China, and not the "Boxers," were fighting the foreign troops. Later, however, it was obtained that the admiral had used the words "Chinese army" as a handy means of expressing the Chinese forces, and that the words "Chinese army" were not intended to be taken literally.

Relieved Regarding Pekin.

The anxiety over the situation at Pekin was somewhat relieved when the State Department received a letter from the Chinese minister, Mr. Wu, stating that he was advised by cable from the viceroy of Nankin that the legations at Pekin were safe. What the means of information of the viceroy of Nankin are is not known, but the authorities here were not less grateful for this reassuring word, and the Chinese dispatches from Shanghai were accepted with much reserve by the officials. But in matters like this, the military and naval authorities are more likely to be guided by the Shanghai statement than Prince Tuan was in charge of a portion of the Chinese army, and one of the most closely identified with the emperor's war.

No News From Pekin.

In answer to a request from the department how many Americans were in Pekin, Rear Admiral Kempff replies under today's date, via Chefoo, that 30 Austrians, 75 French, 50 Germans, 70 British, 40 Italians, 21 Japanese, 75 Russians and 58 American troops are in Pekin.

He further says: "No news of whereabouts of Pekin relief expedition reported by cablegram June 12. Japanese expect several thousand troops now due. No news from Tien Tsin or Peking since last report."

This dispatch arrived at the Navy Department prior to the dispatch announcing the Chinese imperial troops and the international column outside of Tien Tsin.

The Solace at Nagasaki.

The Navy Department received a dispatch this morning announcing the arrival of the Solace at Nagasaki, Japan.

The Solace took a force of 130 marines, under Major Littleton W. T. Waller, from Taku from Cavite, P. I., at the first call for reinforcements from Admiral Kempff.

No explanation is given at the Navy Department as to why the Solace went over to Nagasaki, instead of remaining with the American fleet at Taku, but it is believed that she made the trip to the Japanese port for the purpose of establishing direct telegraphic communication with the department. It was the original plan to have the Solace put Major Waller's marines ashore at Taku and continue homeward to the United States, but, in view of the critical state of affairs in China, it is probable that she will be used as a transport or a dispatch boat. It may be that the department will find it necessary to send duplicate messages to Kempff via Nagasaki.

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and in that event the Solace would prove of great service.

The Attitude of the Government.

Several important communications have been received by the Secretary of State justifying the attitude assumed by this government that, technically speaking, a state of war does not exist between the United States and China. The viceroys who have their seats of government at Nankin and Wu Chang and who govern the five great provinces in the Yangtze Kiang region have assured this government that they are determined and perfectly able to preserve order in their jurisdictions and protect the lives and property of foreigners. In reply to this they have been assured that, so long as they are able to maintain order and protect life and property in the provinces under their control, the government of the United States will send no troops into that region and will use its influence with the other powers in the same direction.

Another communication of great importance was received from Li Hung Chang, the viceroy of Canton, who gives his personal assurance that the firing upon the foreign fleets at Taku was not authorized by the Chinese government. He desires the authority of the powers to proceed to Peking for the purpose of putting an end to the disturbances there, a purpose in which his great influence, both with the court and with the people, gives a certain promise of success. The United States and, it is believed, the other powers have assented to this proposition of Li Hung Chang and he is supposed to have started for Peking.

Remedy Needs More Officers.

Admiral Remy has cabled to the Navy Department urging the necessity of large reinforcements of naval officers. He particularly details the need of three commandants, four lieutenant commanders, ten lieutenants, a fleet paymaster and twenty lieutenants. The authorities here are using the utmost endeavor to bring officers from every available point so as to meet the requirements in Asiatic waters, and for this reason the quota at the torpedo school at Newport and at many other points is being reduced to the smallest possible limit. There are now fifty-two vessels in the Asiatic fleet, showing the extreme need of reinforcements.

Delay of the Ninth Infantry.

The only news given out at the War Department today having any bearing on the situation in China was a dispatch from Gen. MacArthur announcing that owing to the delay in the departure of the military reinforcements to China, the message is as follows:

MANILA, June 23, 1900.

Adjutant General Washington:

Departure of the Ninth Infantry until June 27, consequence storm, which broke rapid telegraph and made approach to transport impossible.

The officials are very much chagrined over this further delay. When troops were first ordered from the Philippines to China, Gen. MacArthur reported that owing to the delay in the departure of the military reinforcements to China, the message is as follows:

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UNITED STATES LEGATION AT TIEN TSIN.

THE SCENE OF FIGHTING

TIEN TSIN THE HOME OF A MILLION OF PEOPLE.

Great Importance of the City—Consul Ragdale and Marshal Bertrand Ragdale—Americans in Peril.

Tien Tsin is eighty miles southeast of Peking, the capital of the empire, according to the New York Tribune. The climate is similar to that of Washington, and navigation is closed for the months of December, January and February, and sometimes in March.

James W. Ragdale, for nearly three years past the United States consul at Tien Tsin, was born February 12, 1848, near Bloomington, Ind., and emigrated with his parents to Iowa in 1850. He grew up on a farm until the fall of 1862, when he volunteered in Company C, 13th Iowa Infantry, though he was under sixteen years of age. The last two years of the war he served as a non-commissioned officer under Gen.

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